REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as described on pages 3-6 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are the only independent claims.

Applicants extend thanks to Examiner Bootah and Examiner Thompson for conducting the personal interview on June 9, 2004. As discussed in the interview, and discussed below, the applied prior art of record fails to teach positioning control information and return positioning control information, as required in the claimed invention.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, as a sender of an incoming mail possesses the incoming mail (that is, information identical to the received media information is stored as transmitted media information on the sender side), there is no need to send the received media information back to the sender if the return mail is composed by utilizing the media information included in the incoming mail (that is, if the return mail includes the received media information). Therefore, the multi-media E-mail to be transmitted to the sender does not include the received media information. On the contrary, the multi-media E-mail to be transmitted to the sender only includes information objects that were not included in the received multi-media E-mail.

In this manner, when a multi-media E-mail that comprises objects of various types of media information (each temporally and/or spatially related to one another) is transmitted/received through a network, the received media information do not go through the network twice. Therefore, information volume is reduced.

In accordance with the present invention, a reply E-mail comprises information objects and positioning control information. The information objects included in a reply E-mail may include new information objects not included in a previously received email and may also include information objects that were previously included in a previously received email. **The positioning control information defines the structure of the reply email and effects both the information objects previously received and the information objects not previously received, all of which comprised the reply E-mail**.

In accordance with the present invention, only the information objects that were not included in a previously received E-mail, and the positioning control information are transmitted. To be explicitly clear, the following is transmitted when sending the reply email:

1 - information objects not included in a previously received E-mail;

2 - positioning control information for the information objects not included in a previously received E-mail; and

3 - **positioning control information for information objects which were included in a previously received E-Mail, but which are not transmitted with the reply E-mail**.

Independent claim 1 comprises, *inter alia:*

"composing a return mail for the restored incoming mail comprising return information objects, of which at least one return information object is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and **return positioning control information indicating how all return information objects are temporally and/or spatially positioned by utilizing the received media information**; and

transmitting the composed return mail back to the sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including the return information objects except for at least one return information object which is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and further including **the return positioning control information for all return information objects**."

Independent claim 5 comprises, *inter alia*:

"an inputted information editing part operable to compose a return mail comprising return information objects, of which at least one return information object is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and **return positioning control information indicating how the return information objects are temporally and/or spatially positioned by utilizing the received information objects**; and

a transmission controlling part operable to transmit the return mail to the sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including the return information objects except for at least one return information object which is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and further including **the return positioning control information for all return information objects**."

Independent claim 9 comprises, *inter alia:*

"compose a return mail for restored incoming mail comprising return information objects, of which at least one return information object is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and **return positioning control information indicating how the return information objects are temporally and/or spatially positioned by utilizing the received information objects**; and

transmit the composed return mail to the sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including the return information objects except for at least one return information object which is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and further including **the return positioning control information for all return information objects**."

It is respectfully submitted that neither the Applicants admitted prior art (AAPA) nor Cree et al. (Cree), either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified limitations. Specifically, neither AAPA nor Cree teaches or suggests transmitting a reply E-mail including positioning control information effecting information objects which are not being transmitted with the reply E-mail.

Although the AAPA discloses the use of positioning control information, the AAPA fails to teach or suggest transmitting an E-mail with positioning control information that effects information objects not transmitted together with the E-mail.

Cree fails to teach the shortcomings of the AAPA such that a combination of the AAPA and Cree would teach that which is required in independent claims 1, 5 and 9. In particular, Cree discloses preventing the contents of an outgoing mail to be cited in a return mail. However, Cree fails to teach or suggest sending with the return E-mail, other information which effects or controls such contents that have been prevented from being attached.

The middle of page 3 of the Office Action indicates that the Applicants admitted prior art fails to teach, *inter alia*:

> "composing a return mail for the restored incoming mail comprising return information objects, **of which at least one return information object included in the received multi-media Email**; and transmitting the composed return information objects **except for at least one return information object which is an information object included in the received multi-media email,** and **further including** the return positioning control information **for all return information objects.**"

The Office Action then relies on Cree for teaching "sending a reply E-mail back to a sender, which optionally contains only the information that was not included in the original E-mail (col. 1, lines 35-37; 48-55; col.2, lines 9-53)."

While not admitting to the accuracy of the asserted teachings of Cree, it is respectfully submitted that Cree fails to teach return positioning control information. More particularly, it is respectfully submitted that Cree fails to teach or suggest return positioning control information indicating how all return information objects are temporality and/or spatially positioned by utilizing the received media information, as required in each of independent claims 1, 5 and 9.

Because neither the AAPA nor Cree teaches or suggests: composing a return mail for the restored incoming mail comprising return information objects, of which at least one return information object is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and return positioning control information indicating how all return information objects are temporally and/or spatially positioned by utilizing the received media information; and transmitting the composed return mail back to the sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including the return information objects except for at least one return information object which is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and further including the return positioning control information

for all return information objects, as required in independent claim 1; an inputted information editing part operable to compose a return mail comprising return information objects, of which at least one return information object is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and return positioning control information indicating how the return information objects are temporally and/or spatially positioned by utilizing the received information objects; and a transmission controlling part operable to transmit the return mail to the sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including the return information objects except for at least one return information object which is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and further including the return positioning control information for all return information objects, as required in independent claim 5; or compose a return mail for restored incoming mail comprising return information objects, of which at least one return information object is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and return positioning control information indicating how the return information objects are temporally and/or spatially positioned by utilizing the received information objects; and transmit the composed return mail to the sender in a form of a multi-media E-mail including the return information objects except for at least one return information object which is an information object included in the received multi-media E-mail, and further including the return positioning control information for all return information objects, as required in independent claim 9, it is respectfully submitted that a combination of the teachings of AAPA and Cree additionally fails to teach that which is required in independent claims 1, 5 and 9.

As claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 are dependent upon claims 1, 5 and 9, respectively, and therefore include all of the limitations thereof, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 are additionally patentable over the combination of the AAPA in view of Cree within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5 and 9 would not have been obvious over the combination of the AAPA in view of Cree, and urge that the rejection of claims 1, 5 and 9, and dependent claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Satoshi KAJITA et al.

By: _____

Thomas D. Robbins
Registration No. 43,369
Attorney for Applicants

TDR/jlg
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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